Recovery of fees from patients in the General Hospital for X-ray examination.

8. *Mr. E. P. Varghese (*Nominated*) : Will the Government be pleased to state whether any fee is levied from patients who resort to the General Hospital, Trivandrum, for treatment, if X-ray examination becomes necessary for them ?

Mr. James Simpson : Yes, except from those who are certified to be too poor to pay by a Government Medical Officer or a qualified Medical Practitioner.

Mr. E. P. Varghese : What is the rate of fees charged ?

Mr. James Simpson : It varies from Rs. 2 to Rs. 8.

Mr. E. P. Varghese : May I know whether any fee is charged when X-ray examination is necessary for diagnosis ?

Mr. James Simpson : If the medical officer in charge of the case thinks that X-ray is going to help in diagnosis and treatment, he will certainly have it ; and if the patient can afford to pay he will be asked to pay.

Mr. E. P. Varghese : How is the ability to pay, of the patient, determined ?

Mr. James Simpson : We rely on the knowledge of medical officers about the patient. In case of doubt, the patient gets it free.

Communal claims in the matter of recruitment of Clerks in the Secretariat.

9. *Mr. E. P. Varghese :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether any communal rotation is adopted in the recruitment of clerks in the Secretariat ?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : The answer is in the negative.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai : May I know what, according to Government, is the community of an applicant ; is it the community in which he was born or the community to which he belongs on the date of the application ?

Rao Sahib Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai : The applicant gives the name of his community in his application ; and the Government ordinarily accept that.

Opening a dispensary between Shertallai and Alleppey.

10. **Mr. E. P. Varghese :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether there have been demands for the opening of a dispensary mid-way between Shertallai and Alleppey ?

Mr. James Simpson : Yes.

Mr. E. P. Varghese : May I know what steps have been taken in that direction ?

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Mr. James Simpson: In 1931, the people petitioned Government for a dispensary. Government have in view the opening of new dispensaries ; and the question of opening a new dispensary in the place referred to in the question will also be taken up in due course.

Prevention of Mosquito trouble in Shertallai.

11. *Mr. E. P. Varghese: Will the Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken for the destruction or the prevention of the increase of mosquitoes in the Shertallai taluk.

Mr. A Kumara Pillai (*Secretary to Government*): A filariasis survey of the taluk was conducted in 1107. A field observation station for carrying out observations on the factors relating to transmission of filaria was also started at Pattanacad in Shertallai. Based on the researches carried out, experimental filariasis control measures were begun in the taluk in 1933. This scheme attempts at the removal, from the mosquito breeding places, of pistia, a water plant on which the larvae of the mosquitoes which transmit the disease thrive. Up to the end of 1934 an area of 12 sq. miles was cleared of pistia.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: What was the conclusion of the experiments conducted ? Was it not that the water plant must be destroyed ?

Mr. A. Kumara Pillai: Yes.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: May I know what further steps have been taken to remove the water plant altogether ?

Mr. A. Kumara Pillai: They have introduced a system of hand removal.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: How many persons are now employed in the hand removal of these plants ?

Mr. A. Kumara Pillai: The controlling staff, now engaged in the work in Shertallai, consists of one Sub-Assistant Surgeon, one Research Assistant, four Maistries, 16 coolies and 2 peons.

Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai: Do the Government hope that, with that staff, the hand removal can be completed ; and, if so, in how many years ?

President: It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. M. N. Paramesvaran Pillai: How many, in Shertallai, were suffering from filariasis at the time the campaign was started, and how many are still suffering from the disease ?

Mr. A. Kumara Pillai: That information is not available. The filarial survey was conducted in 1107. In that survey 6,404 persons were examined, out of whom 1,754 persons were found to be infected.

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